



Saguaro National Park (West)

May Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center, 2700 N. Kinney Road, and last 30 to 45 minutes, unless noted otherwise. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 for updates the day of the program. Program listings can also be found at www.nps.gov/sagu.

May 10, 24 10:15 a.m. Mountain Lions: Beyond the Myth Talk: 45 minutes

Envision a puma stalking its prey, then uncover the true nature of this elusive but essential predator. Misunderstood, maligned, and nearly eradicated by settlers, the cougar remains threatened by human encroachment. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 5, 12, 19, 26 3:15 p.m. Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool Talk: 30 minutes

Lizards are small denizens of the desert that are a critical component of our desert community. Find out what it means when they do pushups or exhibit other odd behaviors. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 4, 11, 18, 25 3:15 p.m. Kangaroo Rat: Super Survivor Talk: 45 minutes

Learn about the remarkable behavioral and physical adaptations these rodents possess that allow them to survive harsh desert environments. Find out how this nocturnal animal escapes predators, evades heat, and endures aridity. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 7, 14, 21 3:15 p.m. Cooking With Prickly Pear Talk: 30 minutes

Learn how you can incorporate prickly pear into your diet. A live cooking demonstration will show you how to prepare and cook prickly pear. Prepare for a sweet treat! *Wheelchair accessible*

May 6, 11, 18, 25 11:15 a.m. also May 13, 20, 27 3:15 p.m. Living With Giants Talk: 45 minutes

The saguaro celebrates events and faces challenges throughout its life. A biologist explains how it provides shelter and substance for wildlife; when it flowers; its growth patterns; and how it fights for survival against drought, lightning, frost, and other dangers. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 6, 13, 20, 27 2:15 p.m. Creepy Crawlers: The Silent Majority Talk: 30 minutes

Learn about some of our most feared and misunderstood arthropods who call this park home. Come discover how essential they are for our desert community and why we shouldn't fear these mostly harmless creatures.

May 19, 26 2:15 p.m. Javelina: Our Desert Neighbors Talk: 30 minutes

Sometimes referred to as the "desert pig," the javelina is not a pig at all. Learn about this intriguing creature and how it survives in this arid environment. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 9, 23 11:15 a.m. Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant Talk: 45 minutes

Hear some astonishing reasons about why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Daytime Walks

May 9 10:15 a.m. Adaptations: Recipe for Survival Easy 100-yard walk: 30 minutes

Take a walk in our Cactus Garden to discover some physical and behavioral adaptations of desert plants.

May 3, 17 10:15 a.m. Sonoran Secrets to Desert Survival Talk & Walk: 60 minutes, 200 yards

Take a short stroll and identify the most common hazards hidden in the desert, uncover survival strategies of native plants and animals, and acquire practical tips to ensure your safety, particularly in warmer temperatures.

May 6, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 10:15 a.m. Spiny, Shady, and COOL! Walk: 30 minutes, 100 yards

Come for a short walk and discover the great variety of cacti that inhabit this unique and fascinating desert.

May 4, 11, 18, 25 2:15 p.m. Synergy in the Desert: The Sonoran Habitat Talk and Walk: 45 minutes

For all of life, "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts" is true. The Saguaro is the focal point for a discussion of how the parts of the Sonoran Desert work together to create a rich living desert that is unique in the world.